

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

OFFICE OF ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND ADMINISTRATION

March 11, 2004

ED-70
RB

Ms. Susan M. Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
West Virginia Division of Culture and History
The Cultural Center
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

Re: AB-55 (Sub-No. 625X) - CSX Transportation, Inc. - Abandonment Exemption -
between Milepost BAJ 0.0 at Rowlesburg to Milepost BAJ 14.3 near Albright, in
Preston County, West Virginia

Dear Ms. Pierce:

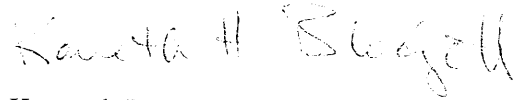
CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSX) filed a petition for exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) on December 22, 2003, to abandon rail line in the above-referenced proceeding. In response to CSX's notification to you regarding this proposed abandonment, you wrote to Mr. Dave Geraci on August 12, 2003, stating that your determination that the rail line be considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and that removal of track materials would constitute an adverse effect.

The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office within the Board responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). As the SEA staff person assigned to this case, I am writing to you to initiate the consultation process pursuant to the regulations implementing Section 106 of NHPA.

I hope that you or a member of your staff will contact me so that we can begin to work together, and with CSX, to seek ways to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects resulting from the proposed abandonment.

Thank you for your assistance and I look forward to working with you and your office as we fulfill our obligations under Section 106 for this case. My telephone is (202) 565-1554 and the fax number for my office is (202) 565-9000.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kenneth H. Blodgett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kenneth H. Blodgett
Section of Environmental Analysis

cc: Ms. Peggy Wilson, CSX Transportation, Inc.
Mr. Don L. Klima, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation